



Chronicles of Diversity

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Two Medicines

Native American tribes speak about the coming of the white man to their homeland as a epoch of bringing a different medicine. Now, if for reasons beyond our understanding, all humanity looks at this life as a wilderness passage to a better home, then the two medicine theory really works. The story then goes, the two very different medicines, treat the same pilgrimage ailment with very different methods.

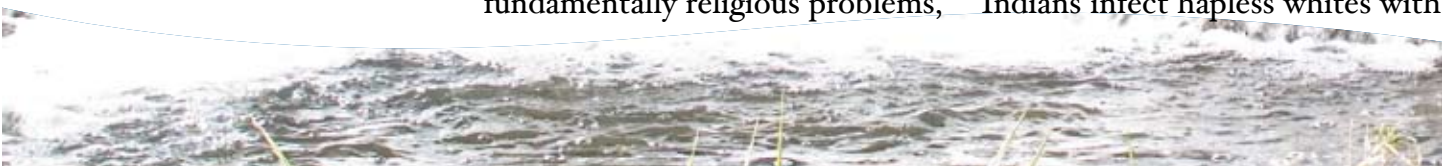
This myth also points out correctly that the medicine is really religious in nature. So instead of the Indian medicine man in opposition to the white man's doctor, we have the Native Shaman in opposition to the Priest or the Missionary.

It is also interesting that the Shaman also treats physical disease. Much of this is beyond the scope of this article, but without the marvels of the science behind western medicine, natural law says that you must treat sickness, sin, and death as fundamentally religious problems,

which of course in the truest sense, they are.

This medicine story points out that the greedy, money loving white adventurers, rapists, and mercenaries, accompanied by their Priest, brought with them the disease of materialism and it's spiritual death. All the while the First Nations, as they call them in Canada, lived in peace and harmony on the land. They were one with all the other animals and treated all life as sacred.

What the myth points out only in perfected hindsight, is that the Native peoples put up resistance to the white man's technology. In actual fact, with the coming of the horse, the gun, and the booze, the native people adopted these gifts with a vengeance of a modern drug addiction. It could be said that the rise of Indian casinos further follows along this path. However, there is a corollary path that says the white man is just getting some deserved payback, as the Indians infect hapless whites with



the illusion of riches for no cost. Which is really the white man's medicine illustrated in modern glitz and lights.

We really see that the Indians just did not have the technology, before the coming of the white man, to be adventurers, rapists, and mercenaries to the extent that the new invaders and their technology brought to the land.

Common grace alone does not show however, that with the coming of the western epidemic, God also brought the specific revelation of His Son, Jesus Christ as the Ultimate Physician, the healer of sin and man's most mortal ailment, death.

Therefore, while there is an element of truth to the two medicine story, the story as it's now told is really not about good and evil, but about total depravity of all mankind, and how God's specific grace withheld the technology for the red man to exploit his now brothers and sisters of other tribes.

Missing in the two medicine myth is the concept of choice. Probably the greatest discussion in Christian theology, in some way concerns our choices. The Bible says that we did not choose God but He chose us before the foundation of the world. What does that mean?

If you want to find true examples of adventurers, rapists, and mercenaries, just look at the wars fought over the religion of choice within the tribes of Christianity. On a more humane note, just look at the libraries of dedicated human thought, helping to clarify all humanity's understanding of choice, at least in the eyes of the scholar, who's efforts produced these works.

What this really says is that God takes choice very seriously. For two reasons, He chose His son to be the propitiatory sacrifice for our sins, and His Son, Jesus Christ chose to be the personality who carried the redemption of mankind into the personal imputed justification of each individual. Much beyond that and we must venture into the library.

By adding the concept of choice, we find a different two medicines that pretty much follow the same story line. If the Native people, had not chosen to follow the technology, they would be

able to stand on solid ground, actually on the rock, that their medicine was superior to the white man's. We have found that this was not the case.

Coming with choice, is the concept of choosing to do good, in contrast with choosing evil.

Last week, I got an unsolicited call from a person who said that she had heard that I was looking to obtain some money to purchase a business and some property in Montana, and that she wanted to help me in that endeavor. Needless to say by Friday I had a verbal commitment to provide the funds, if and when all the details can be worked out.

My part took one meeting, where I presented my PowerPoint presentation about the business opportunity, giving her the background information I had, and sending her a later developed personal bio. By removing just two lines from the radical presentation I wrote about last week, and limiting the pitch to just the business stuff, the whole thing came together.

I also came away with a different concept of how our choices determine what medicine we find acceptable, as we strive to make our passage through this desert wilderness. These two medicines are not based on just Protestant Christianity but a more broad Absolute Truth that can be agreed upon by both Orthodox Jews and Christians of all persuasions, and even most Bible based sects and cults.

These two medicines are based on two mutually exclusive operational paradigms determined by our choices, God's Medicine and the World's Medicine. Both appeal to the same human desire and that is to do good and to leave a legacy of goodness, hopefully in your life, but definitely after you depart in death.

Directions on the World's Medicine says, "Take this my way and I will make you rich, then you will be able to do good things."

God's Medicine says, "Take this my way and you can do good things, and then I will bless you beyond worldly wealth."

As in the Native American version of two medicines, we all understand worldly riches, but we don't understand riches beyond that, unless they are revealed to us by God, by what He does for us in our personal lives. In other words, He adds an eternal

perspective to the world's wealth so that we can take it with us into eternity.

A good thing, just what is it? From the world's perspective goodness centers around you, even if it is your goodness legacy. From God's perspective, goodness centers around what you unselfishly do for others. Of course that is also the essence of the gospel.

We are so self centered we think we live in a unique time where we can not learn from the mistakes and the proper applications of another era. In the Bible in the Book of Judges we find some truly wonderful parallels. But we never have access to those truths if we use only our time and grace centered approaches so prevalent in evangelicalism.

We live in a time when, "In those days there was no king in Israel, everyone did what was right in his own eyes." While we don't live in Old Testament Israel, we all live in a country today where that positional relevancy is true, even in countries where a remnant of a monarchy still exists.

To me, a most interesting story is that of Gideon Judges 6 8 and how he delivered the nation of Israel from the Midianites with just 300 men, some pitchers, and torches. Actually, it is a story of how the Midianites defeated themselves by their own God fearing fears, but that is a story for another time.

What I want to focus on is the choices that Gideon made, that took him to the next level of obedience. We like to focus on his faith, or lack thereof, when he asked for the fleece to be wet or not wet, but once we get to his actual deliverance, as the leader of Israel, the choices Gideon made brought about the victory. This is contrasted in how Saul, the first king of Israel, failed similar tests in the following book of 1 Samuel.

When Gideon made the call for help, 32,000 showed up. In most of the church today, if all those people would show up for something, we would call it a great miracle, put it on television, and start "The Gideon Traveling Deliverance Ministries Incorporated." Of course, in a few months or years, we would get this letter stating,

"This God anointed ministry needs your financial support at this critical time to continue the work that God has called us to perform."

See, the problem isn't with the calling, the problem is with the choices made after the calling. In the case after the 32,000 showed up, the modern Gideon, did not ask God if that is the way you want us to proceed, or what would You like us to do.

The real historical Gideon, sent 22,000 men home through his choice to obey God and send home those who were afraid, and then another 9700 in the lapping water experience. It was only after that, those conscious choices made by Gideon, did God actually bring about the victory.

In the light of my experience with this business financing, it seems like a miracle, because I really did little to gain such a blessing, and it may eventually turn out that way. But upon reflection in the light of Gideon's example, I have to ask myself, "Where is my 300 no fear Christians, who would be willing to invest some of their worldly mammon to accompany me as God brings about this victory.

Well, I guess the modern Gideon example above, already used, "This God anointed ministry needs your financial support at this critical time to continue the work that God has called us to perform." So sending out 32,000 letters, or emails isn't going to work God's way.

Interesting enough, it seems to me that the 300 number, if those people were not in fear of losing their investment and invested to just less than that fear point, would be about right to raise the money to establish this ministry in Montana without, or with very limited debt. Upon reflection the 32,000 over time doesn't seem contrary to God's will either, since we are starting from zero. The problem is how you go about it. The choice as I mentioned earlier, the choice is to take God's medicine and not the world's.

God's Medicine says, "Take it my way and you can do good things, and then I will bless you beyond worldly wealth."

To bring His healing of your soul in this pilgrimage, God's medicine uses gifts you never knew you had, or uses the gifts you knew you were given, in ways that completely overwhelm your understanding, with the grandeur of God's glory.

The good thing from my perspective is not so much that this ministry can be established in Montana. That was accomplished last week, and along that path eventually this ministry will be able to do what it was called to do.

What is really happening, given the context that I think God has given me, is that people are not being asked to give to a ministry, but to invest in a ministry. In that context of investing rather than giving, you will receive stock rather than a tax deduction, a trinket, and a thank you letter. In other words, just writing a check will not let you completely off the hook, on how it will be spent. Only as true investors with God in our feeble enterprise endeavors, can we begin to see some of that eternal wealth beyond the money, or in this case the gold.

Blessings beyond worldly wealth. I have been blessed in this life beyond measure. The good legacy I would like to pass to you my readers is that God is faithful to His children, but you can never get to that wisdom without moving beyond your understanding of the situation, and trusting totally and fully that God will make a way, when the wilderness brush is so thick that you can't even see the ground, little lone make a path.

Somehow, I was just able to chop out a little clearing in the underbrush, that clearing can be made into a community, but it still takes a few selected persons who fit God's criteria. With Gideon God chose an obscure way of drinking water. Perhaps in this time it might be Chronicles of Diversity readers and their friends. To me that seems just as bizarre.

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